taking into consideration suggestions from various women' organizations has recommended changes for widening scope of the offence in section 375 of the Indian Penal Code, 1860 and to make it gender neutral. Other changes recommended include amendment to section 376 and 376A to 376D, insertion of a new section 376E dealing with unlawful sexual contact with young persons below the age of sixteen years, deletion of section 377 and enhancement of punishment in section 509 of Indian Penal Code, 1860. Various consequential changes in the Code of Criminal Procedure, 1973 and the Indian Evidence Act, 1872 have also been recommended.

The 172nd Report of the Law Commission has been referred to State Governments and Union Territory Administration for their views as the Criminal Law and the Criminal Procedure are on the Concurrent List of the Seventh Schedule to the Constitution of India.

Effect of Indo-Pak Road-Rail Link on drug smuggling

1852. SHRIMATI SHABANA AZMI: Will the Minister of HOME AFFAIRS be pleased to state:

(a) whether Indo-Pak road-rail links will help in checking the drug smuggling;

(b) if so, whether any efforts have been made to strengthen the Customs and Border Security Force and Narcotics Control Bureau to check this drug smuggling; and

(c) if so, to what extent the Indo-Pak road and rail links have helped in achieving this aim?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF HOME AFFAIRS (SHRI I.D. SWAMI): (a) to (c) There had been cases of trafficking in narcotic drugs through the rail and road links between India and Pakistan. No incident of drug smuggling has been reported since the reopening of road links between India and Pakistan. The rail links between the two countries have not been re-established so far. However, the possibilities of drug smuggling through road and rail links between the two countries can not be ruled out.

Security Agencies of the Central and State Governments maintain a high level of alertness and they are fully geared to check illegal cross border activities.